

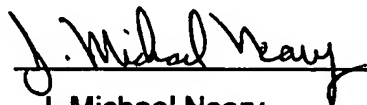
(after which Applicants no longer have the right to make amendments). Applicants believe that the Examiner should not make a rejection "final" when it rejects an original claim on a new ground for the first time. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to either withdraw the finality of the Final Office Action, or enter the amendments in this Rule 116 Amendment to remove the "such as" phrase.

Applicants assert that the meaning of "such as" is well known. It introduces examples of specific things illustrative of a more general term that encompasses them and others. This is ordinary English and does not introduce any ambiguity in the claim whatsoever. Indeed, it is widely used in claims, such as Patent No. 3,602,067 to Wetherbee, of record in this application.

The Examiner, in the advisory Action dated February 23, 2004, noted that the amendment to claim 1 that the fibers are distributed as multiple layers made of bands of tows, requires further search and/or consideration. This same language appears in claim 7 and has already been thoroughly searched and considered. Applicants do not understand what "further search and/or consideration" would be required for a subject matter that has already been thoroughly searched and considered.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Final Office Action, or enter Applicants' Rule 116 Amendment mailed on January 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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